

CONFIDENTIAL**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM : Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

DATE: 17 October 1951

SUBJECT: Request for project on topographic and soil conditions in Semipalatinsk Oblast of Kazakh SSR.

60072

1. It is believed that the recent Soviet atomic explosion announced by the President was conducted in the area of Semipalatinsk Oblast of Kazakh SSR. In connection with the analysis of data on the explosion now being conducted, it may be possible to determine the precise location and something about the conditions under which the test were conducted if sufficiently definitive information on the soil characteristics and topography of the general area of the test can be obtained.

2. With this aim in mind it is requested that ORR undertake a project to obtain this information. A preliminary discussion with [REDACTED] of Geographic Division, ORR, has indicated that the information may be obtainable. The study should

25X1A

a. Cover the areas of Semipalatinsk, Alma Ata, East Kazakhstan, Karaganda, and Pavlodar Oblasts bounded by 75°E, 53°N, 85°E, and 45°N.

b. Furnish topographical data by providing copies of the best available topographical maps.

c. Furnish data on the types of soil and terrain, including chemical composition, petrographic analysis, and mineral composition. This should include salt flats occurring in the area.

d. Furnish data on the mineral content of lakes in area.

e. Furnish data on the types and extent of flora in the area.

3. For security reasons the purpose of this study and any indication that the area in question was the locale of the Soviet bomb test should be restricted to as few persons as possible and no persons outside CIA.

4. It is desired that the project be given sufficient priority to enable a preliminary informed report to be made by 7 November. Initial effort should be concentrated on obtaining the information asked in paragraph 2, c, since this will be needed first.

H. MARSHALL CHADWELL

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